

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the present application as evidenced by the Office Action of August 26, 2004 (hereinafter "Office Action"). Applicants, however, respectfully request that the Examiner take one final look at independent Claims 1, 33, and 57. Independent Claims 1, 33, and 57 include recitations that clarify that *a caller provides the one or more bookmarks in the voice mail message*. Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references fail to disclose or suggest, among other things, all of the recitations of independent Claims 1, 33, and 57. Accordingly, Applicants submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of all pending claims is respectfully requested for at least the reasons discussed hereafter.

Claim Amendments Unrelated to the Objections or Rejections

Claims 2, 3, 14, 22 - 32, and 83 - 88 have been amended to eliminate recitations of "step." Claim 1 has been amended to correct a grammatical error by changing "at least bookmark" to "at least one bookmark."

The Objection to Claim 91 Has Been Overcome

Claim 91 stands objected to because it is a computer program product claim yet it depends from a system claim. In response, Applicants have amended Claim 91 to depend from independent Claim 57, which is a computer program product claim.

Independent Claims 1, 33, and 57 Are Patentable

Independent Claims 1, 33, and 57 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 5,742,736 to Haddock (hereinafter "Haddock") and under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 6,055,495 to Tucker et al. (hereinafter "Tucker"). (Office Action, page 2). Independent Claims 1, 33, and 57 are directed to a method, a system, and a computer program product, respectively. For example, independent Claim 1 recites:

providing at least one bookmark for a voice mail message by a caller leaving the voice mail message.

Claims 33 and 57 include similar recitations. Thus, according to the independent claims, a caller leaving the voice mail message provides one or more bookmarks for the voice mail message.

The Office Action cites col. 3, line 57 through col. 4, line 19 of Haddock and col. 1 lines 4 - 26, col. 2, lines 1 - 67, and col. 4, lines 1 - 40 of Tucker as disclosing this aspect of the present invention. Applicants respectfully disagree with this interpretation of the teachings of Haddock and Tucker. Turning first to Haddock, Applicants respectfully submit that, in sharp contrast to independent Claims 1, 33, and 57, Haddock describes a system in which a user or recipient of a voice mail message may place labels or markers in a voice mail message using a graphical user interface running on a personal computer. (Haddock, col. 4, lines 38 - 63). Turning next to Tucker, Applicants respectfully submit that this reference likewise describes a system in which a user or recipient of a voice mail message may play back the message and place markers or labels in the voice mail message using a graphical user interface running on a personal computer. (Tucker, col. 4, lines 1 - 23). Thus, while Applicants acknowledge that Haddock and Tucker describe systems in which markers may be inserted into a voice message by a user or recipient who analyzes the voice message after it has been recorded, Applicants respectfully submit that neither Haddock nor Tucker describe or suggest that a caller leaving a voice mail message may provide one or more bookmarks for the voice mail message as recited in independent Claims 1, 33, and 57.

Accordingly, for at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 1, 33, and 57 are patentable over both Tucker and Haddock, and that Claims 2 - 32, 34 - 56, and 58 - 91 are patentable at least as they depend from an allowable claim.

Various Dependent Claims are Separately Patentable

As discussed above, dependent Claims 2 - 32, 34 - 56, and 58 - 91 are patentable as least as they depend from patentable independent Claims 1, 33, and 57. Applicants further submit, however, that various dependent claims are separately patentable for at least the reasons discussed hereafter.

Dependent Claims 5, 43 and 60 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Haddock. Applicants respectfully submit that Haddock does not appear to contain any disclosure with respect to using labels or markers to divide segments of a voice mail message according to degrees of importance. Accordingly, for at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claims 5, 43, and 60 are separately patentable over Haddock.

Dependent Claims 13, 45, and 70 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Haddock. Applicants respectfully submit that Haddock does not appear to contain any disclosure with respect to using labels or markers to mark a segment of a voice mail message as protected or confidential. Accordingly, for at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claims 13, 45, and 70 are separately patentable over Haddock.

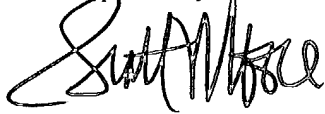
Dependent Claims 29, 53, and 78 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Haddock. Applicants respectfully submit that Haddock does not appear to contain any disclosure with respect to associating one or more audio cues with one or more bookmarks of a voice mail message. Indeed, Haddock appears to limit the use of bookmarks to providing a visual cue to the content of the speech of the voice mail message and to provide a link to an appropriate computer application. (Haddock, col. 4, lines 64 - 67). Accordingly, for at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claims 29, 53, and 78 are separately patentable over Haddock.

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CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the above-entitled application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested. Alternatively, Applicants respectfully request entry of the present amendment as introducing no new issues and narrowing the issues for further consideration. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (919) 854-1400.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Scott Moore", written over a horizontal line.

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